

I have named this species in compliment to Mr. M. A. Frazar, by whom it was collected.

**Sayornis dominicensis.** General appearance of the last species but much larger; abdomen and crissum showing an orange tinge; olive of the sides darker; tail feathers narrowly tipped with dull white. Length, 6; wing, 3; tail, 2.75; tarsus, .62; bill, .55.

I have placed this species in the genus *Sayornis* provisionally.

**Myiarchus ruficaudatus.** Crown dark olive brown, becoming lighter on the back and showing a more decided grayish tinge. Throat and breast ashy; belly, crissum and under wing-coverts, pale yellow; wing-coverts edged with brownish-white, forming two dull wing-bands; tertials broadly edged with yellowish-white. Primaries, except the first, narrowly edged with rufous on the outer rib, showing a broader and much paler edging of the same color on the inner webs of the same feathers. Two central tail feathers dark brown, all the rest having more than half of the inner web *rufous to the tip*. Bill and feet, black. Length, 7.25; wing, 3.50; tail, 3.25; tarsus, .75; bill, .75.

The above may be easily distinguished by the tail markings. *Myiarchus stolidus* from Jamaica approaches it closely, but lacks the bright rufous on the outer tail feather.

**Strix dominicensis.** General plumage above dark brown, shading into orange-rufous on the side of the neck. Quills showing inner webs brownish, outer webs dull orange-rufous, banded with brown. Entire underparts pale orange-rufous mottled with light brown, whitening somewhat on the throat and abdomen. Face deep gray; an ante-orbital spot of black; circle of feathers around the face dark chestnut, bordered with black on the throat. Tarsus not feathered to the feet. Length, 13.50; wing, 10; tail, 4.60; tarsus, 2.45.

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### HOLBÖLL'S RED-POLL (*ÆGIOTHUS LINARIA HOLBOELLI*) IN NEW ENGLAND.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

HAVING occasion, recently, to look up the distribution of Holböll's Red-poll I was astonished to find that it has never been formally accredited to New England, nor even, unless I

*Measurements.\** Five adult males. Wing, 3.10-3.30; tail, 2.46-2.64; length of bill from base, .40-.45; depth of bill at base, .25-.28.

Five immature males. Wing, 3.-3.14; tail, 2.27-2.65; length of bill from base, .40-.45; depth of bill, .25-.26.

Five females. Wing, 2.95-3.07; tail, 2.34-2.55; length of bill, .36-.41; depth of bill, .24-.25.

The above characters have been taken from what I assume to be typical representatives. Between these extremes my series furnishes a perfect intergradation in size and a partial one in respect to shape of bill, coloring, markings, etc. Nevertheless I have yet to see a bird which cannot be consistently referred to one or the other form when the bearing of *all* its characters is carefully weighed. Moreover, it is significant that the apparent connecting links are furnished by large adult *males* of *linaria* and small *females* of *holboelli*, the variations among individuals of the same age and sex failing to afford any real intermediates. Taking this fact into account, and without regard to what has been previously written on the subject, I should interpret the evidence at hand as indicating that *linaria* and *holboelli* are forms closely allied, but nevertheless sufficiently segregated to rank as distinct species. Dr. Coues and Mr. Ridgway, however, agree in treating their relationship as a varietal one, and this opinion, based, as it is, on exceptionally favorable opportunities in respect to the examination of material, should not be lightly disregarded. Still I cannot help suspecting that this point, as well as certain others offered by the genus *Ægiothus*, will bear further investigation, and that this may lead to more or less important changes in the arrangement at present accepted.

It is worthy of note that most of the Holböll's Red-polls taken here this winter have occurred on or very near the sea-shore. Indeed, there is no evidence to show that they have been more

\* Without going into details of measurements of a large series of *linaria* before me. I will simply remark that out of some sixty specimens, only two (both of which are adult males) give a longer wing-measurement than the smallest *holboelli*. The larger of these has a wing 3.08 inches long. In at least nineteen cases out of twenty, however, I find it perfectly safe to refer a Red-poll with a wing-measurement of 3 inches or over, and a depth of bill of .25 inches or over to *Æ. holboelli*; that is, such a specimen will present most, if not all of the other characters already pointed out as distinguishing this form. In the twentieth case size must be disregarded and the other characters carefully considered. This, of course, relates to New England specimens only.

than usually numerous in Cambridge, Belmont, and other inland towns. This fact may have no real significance, but if we assume that *Æ. holboelli* is chiefly a littoral form, there is less difficulty in understanding why it has so generally escaped notice, for, until very recently, our sea-coast has been rarely visited by collectors during the winter months. Still the bird does occur far inland, for Dr. Merriam writes me that it visits Lewis County, New York, and Mr. Maynard has some typical examples from Minnesota. Perhaps, as with the Lapland Longspur, there is a case of partially interrupted distribution to be made out; at all events it must now be formally entered in the books as an irregular but sometimes abundant winter visitor to New England, as far south at least as Massachusetts. We fear such notoriety will scarcely be to the little stranger's advantage in these days of active collecting.

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### Recent Literature.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM CATALOGUE OF BIRDS.—Since our last notice of this work (see this Bulletin, Vol. III, April, 1878, pp. 77-79) three additional volumes\* have appeared, namely, Volumes IV, V, and VI. Volume IV, like the previous volumes, is by Mr. Sharpe, as is also volume VI, while volume V is the work of Mr. Seebohm. Volume IV is devoted to the two families *Campophagidæ* and *Muscicapidæ*, both composed exclusively of Old World forms. Of the *Campophagidæ* 148 species are described, of the *Muscicapidæ*, 391. In style of treatment and general character this volume is similar to the earlier ones, already noticed at some length in this Bulletin.

Volume V, by Mr. Seebohm, is devoted to the *Turdidæ*, as this group is defined in Mr. Sharpe's scheme of classification, with limits rather dif-

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\* Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum. Vol. IV. Catalogue of the Passeriformes, or Perching Birds, in the British Museum. Cichlomorphæ: Part I, containing the families *Campophagidæ* and *Muscicapidæ*. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, London, 1879. 8vo, pp. xvi+494, pl. xiv. Vol. V. Catalogue of the Passeriformes, or Perching Birds in the British Museum. Cichlomorphæ: Part II, containing the family *Turdidæ*, (Warblers and Thrushes). By Henry Seebohm, London, 1881. 8vo, pp. xvi+426, pl. xviii. Vol. VI. Catalogue of the Passeriformes, or Perching Birds, in the collection of the British Museum. Cichlomorphæ: Part III, containing the first portion of the family *Timeliidæ* (Babbling Thrushes). By R. Bowdler Sharpe. London, 1881. 8vo, pp. xiii+420, pl. xviii.